



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Draft TASK FORCE ON MUNICIPAL GOLF IN MADISON PARKS

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Thursday, July 30, 2020

6:00 PM

Via virtual meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks was held via Virtual Meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, July 30, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Bill Barker; Ald. Zachary Henak; James Kopp; Katie Krueger; Chandra Miller Fienen; Raymond Shane; Daniel Steinbring; and Veronica Vega.

Members Excused: Noah Lopez.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp; Lisa Laschinger; Ryan Brinza; Theran Steindl; and Liz Levy.

City Staff Present: Katie Crawley, Mayor's Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Shane, to Approve the Minutes of the July 23, 2020 Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks meeting.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no registrants for Public Comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[59227](#)

Task Force Deliberation, Discussion, and Possible Recommendations

Registrant Gary Peterson registered in opposition.

Registrant Duane Hunter registered in opposition.

A summary of the Task Force discussion is available (attached to legistar file #59227). A recording of the discussion can be viewed here:
<https://media.cityofmadison.com/Mediasite/Play/6017655d594e4dd5a1e275c283c4a4f01d>

Motion made by Krueger, seconded by Miller Fienen, to Accept the recommendation that the City should work with stakeholders and staff to develop a specific action plan to promote equity and inclusion at all courses.

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Henak, seconded by Krueger, to revise the text of recommendation #2 as follows:

"The Task Force recommends that the City remove the enterprise fund designation from the golf courses to better integrate the golf courses within the park system. The Task Force found that being in an enterprise was incompatible with a mission of equity, inclusion, affordability, and accessibility. The Task Force also found that the enterprise fund inherently skews prices to keep up with market forces without regard to those who are financially burdened. Removing the courses from the enterprise fund would allow for layering of additional uses of the park land beyond golf. It would also allow community members who have not historically visited these properties to find purpose in these public lands. Removal from the enterprise fund also offers opportunities for creative partnerships and revenue sources."

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Krueger, seconded by Miller Fienen, to accept the recommendation that the City should aim to operate a total of 45 golf holes.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Approve-0

Oppose-7: Henak, Kopp, Krueger, Miller Fienen, Shane, Steinbring, Vega.

Motion made by Miller Fienen, seconded by Steinbring, to revise the text of recommendation #4 as follows:

~~"The Task Force recommends that Madison reduce the number of golf holes operated to better position the golf program to be financially stable and meet the long term needs of golfers and non-golfers. The growth in available golf courses in the marketplace and the lack of corresponding increase in golfers makes the current allocation of land and resources to golf unsustainable. The Task Force recommends that any partnership at Monona be focused in a~~

~~manner that demonstrates the ability to meet the City's mission for municipal golf, including instruction for all ages and serving youth, and eliminate the City's obligation for capital and operating expenses for Monona. The Task Force recommends that the City expeditiously create a plan to reduce the number of holes at Yahara Hills by ~~eighteen~~ 18 holes. This reduction should focus on reducing capital and operational costs, and increasing climatic resiliency, while also considering potential alternative land uses.~~

The Task Force recommends that any partnership at Monona be focused in a manner that demonstrates the ability to meet the City's mission for municipal golf, including instruction for all ages and serving youth, and eliminate the City's obligation for capital and operating expenses for Monona. The City should work diligently to ensure it provides an RFP process that is conducive to a successful response.

If the RFP is not successful the City should consider eliminating additional holes from City operation and/or course closure in order to ensure the sustainability of the golf program in the City of Madison. The Task Force is hopeful that if this occurs that the policymakers will consider and recognize the significant and complex issues in these decisions. The Task Force unanimously agreed that setting a specific number of holes for reduction without specific context on what course is impacted is not a reasoned and balanced approach to meeting the community's needs. The Task Force spent significant time and resources on these discussions and recommends that this process be informed by the values and recommendations incorporated and highlighted in this report."

The motion passed by the following vote:

Approve-6: Henak, Krueger, Miller Fienen, Shane, Steinbring, Vega.
Oppose-1: Kopp.

Motion made by Henak, seconded by Miller Fienen, to approve the report as written.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Approve-5: Henak, Krueger, Miller Fienen, Steinbring, Vega.
Oppose-2: Kopp, Shane.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Kopp, seconded by Steinbring, to Adjourn at 8:21 PM. Motion passed by voice vote/other.